

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 4

Introduced by Assembly Member Floyd

February 13, 1997

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 4—Relative to
Anti-personnel landmines.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 4, as introduced, Floyd. Anti-personnel landmines.

This measure would memorialize the President and Congress of the United States to enact legislation outlawing the use of anti-personnel landmines, to make permanent the current moratorium on the export of anti-personnel landmines, and to work with other nations toward creation of an international ban on their use.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, There are 110,000,000 landmines scattered
2 in 69 countries, with this figure increasing dramatically
3 year by year, continuing violence against civilians long
4 after warfare has ceased; and

5 WHEREAS, These landmines are widely deployed in
6 the developing countries of Asia, Africa, and Latin
7 America; and

8 WHEREAS, Another victim is killed or maimed every
9 20 minutes, more than 25,000 each year, and most of the
10 victims are children playing or women peasants seeking
11 to feed their families; and

1 WHEREAS, In the worst affected areas, the landmines
2 play havoc with the economy; refugees cannot return
3 home, farmers cannot till the fields, relief shipments
4 cannot be delivered, animals cannot reach waterholes,
5 suitable lands are over-farmed, health care systems are
6 overwhelmed, mine clearance costs are exorbitant; and

7 WHEREAS, The United States has been a major
8 producer and exporter of anti-personnel landmines for a
9 quarter century, although it has declared a moratorium,
10 recently extended to 1999, on the export of anti-personnel
11 landmines; and

12 WHEREAS, Many U.S. military leaders, including
13 General Schwarzkopf, have confirmed that there is no
14 need for anti-personnel landmines as weapons; and

15 WHEREAS, The United States has recognized the
16 humanitarian cost of anti-personnel landmines and is
17 pursuing efforts in the United Nations and elsewhere to
18 address the problem; and

19 WHEREAS, Despite international momentum for a
20 global ban on anti-personnel landmines, the latest United
21 Nations conference failed to negotiate a ban; and

22 WHEREAS, More than 150 U.S. humanitarian
23 organizations including the Red Cross, CARE, Save the
24 Children, Catholic Relief Services, and World Vision,
25 have joined more than 500 humanitarian organizations
26 around the world in calling for an immediate ban on the
27 production, stockpiling, use, and transfer of
28 anti-personnel landmines; and

29 WHEREAS, The United States has joined over 70 other
30 nations in putting forth a United Nations resolution
31 calling for an international ban on the production,
32 stockpiling, use and transfer of anti-personnel landmines,
33 as well as being an active participant in the recent
34 conference in Ottawa, Canada, that called for an
35 international treaty; now, therefore, be it

36 *Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of*
37 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature of the State of
38 California respectfully memorializes the President and
39 the Congress of the United States to enact legislation
40 outlawing the manufacture, stockpiling, sale and use of



1 anti-personnel landmines by the United States; and be it
2 further

3 *Resolved*, That the Legislature of the State of California
4 also encourages the leaders of the United States to work
5 with our allies and other nations toward the creation of an
6 international ban on the manufacture, stockpiling, sale
7 and use of anti-personnel landmines; and be it further

8 *Resolved*, That the Legislature of the State of California
9 also urges the President and the Congress of the United
10 States to turn the recently enacted three-year extension
11 of a moratorium on exports of anti-personnel landmines
12 into a permanent ban; and be it further

13 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly
14 transmit copies of this resolution to the President and
15 Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the
16 United States House of Representatives, and to each
17 Senator and Representative from California in the
18 Congress of the United States.

